



## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Shuichi HIRAYAMA : Patent Art Unit: 3728

Serial No.: 10/758,591

Filed: January 16, 2004

For: BOOT LINER

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT WITH CERTIFICATION

Assistant Commissioner of Patents Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In accordance with MPEP 609 and 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant brings the references listed on the attached PTO 1449-Form to the Examiner's attention and requests that they be considered and made of record in this application. Copies of the non-U.S. patents and the June 2, 2004 European Search Report are attached.

I hereby certify that each item of information in the Information Disclosure Statement filed herewith was cited for the first time in any communication from a foreign patent office in any counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

No fee is believed to be required in view of the above certification. However, Applicant authorizes the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to charge payment of the Petition fee Under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) if required and any other fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1836. A duplicate copy of this Statement is enclosed for that purpose.

Since this application was filed after June 30, 2003, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office waives the requirement under 37 C.F.R. 1.98 (a) (2) (i) for submitting a copy of each cited U.S. Patent and each U.S. patent application publication.

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European Patent Publication No. 1 308 104 appears to disclose an inner boot with a lacing arrangement having a lace 4 passing through loops (5, 6, 7, 8, 15, 17) of straps. An English abstract of this publication is provided to better understand this publication.

French Patent Publication No. 2 834 182 appears to disclose a boot having a lacing arrangement with a plurality of straps 22 interconnected by a lace 23.

Prompt examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Tarnoff Reg. No. 32,383

SHINJYU GLOBAL IP COUNSELORS, LLP 1233 Twentieth Street, NW, Suite 700 Washington, DC 20036 (202)-293-0444

Dated: 7-7-04

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PTO/SB/08A (10-01)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031
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**ATENT** 

Sheet

Complete if Known				
Application Number	10/758,591			
Filing Date	January 16, 2004			
First Named Inventor	Shuichi HIRAYAMA			
Group Art Unit	3728			
Examiner Name				
Attorney Docket Number	SN-US035198			

		Document Number		Name of Patentee or Applicant of		
	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Number - Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevan Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	
		US- 5,992,057-B	11-30-1999	Monti	Column 2, line 29 - Column 3, line 38; Figures 1-3	
		US- 6,128,835-B	10-10-2000	Ritter et al.	Column 3, line 66 - Column 5, line 49; Figures 1 and 2	
		US- 6,467,193-B1	10-22-2002	Okajima	Column 4, line 8 - Column 6, line 41; Figures 1-3	
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Evaminas	Cite No. '	Foreign Patent Document		Name of Patentee or	Pages, Columns, Lines,	
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> - Number <sup>4</sup> - Kind Code <sup>5</sup> ( <i>if known</i> )	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Applicant of Cited Document	Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		EP-1308104-A	05-07-2003	Nicolas et al.	Paragraph 0011 - 0014; Figure 1	No
		FR-2834182-A	07-04-2003	Fabio	Page 2, line 18 - Page 3, line 11	No
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Examiner Signature	Date Considered	

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at <a href="www.uspto.gov">www.uspto.gov</a> or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is